

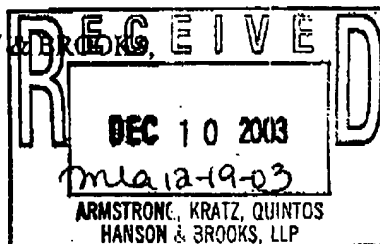


UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

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NOTICE OF ALLOWANCE AND FEE(S) DUE

23850 7590 12/09/2003
ARMSTRONG, KRATZ, QUINTOS, HANSON & BROOKS, LLP
1725 K STREET, NW
SUITE 1000
WASHINGTON, DC 20006



EXAMINER	
HESS, DANIEL A	
ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
2876	
DATE MAILED: 12/09/2003	

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
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08/192,468

01/31/1997

CHIZU SHIMIZU

94049B

4039

TITLE OF INVENTION: PURCHASED COMMODITY ACCOMMODATING AND TRANSPORTING APPARATUS HAVING SELF-SCANNING FUNCTION AND P
SYSTEM

DRAWINGS CALL-UP: FEBRUARY 9, 2004

Issue fee - Call up: MARCH 2, 2004

APPL. TYPE	SMALL ENTITY	ISSUE FEE	PUBLICATION FEE	TOTAL FEE(S) DUE	DATE DUE
nonprovisional	NO	\$1330	\$0	\$1330	03/09/2004

THE APPLICATION IDENTIFIED ABOVE HAS BEEN EXAMINED AND IS ALLOWED FOR ISSUANCE AS A PATENT PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS CLOSED. THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWANCE IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHT. THIS APPLICATION IS SUBJECT TO WITHDRAWAL FROM ISSUE AT THE INITIATIVE OF THE OFFICE OR UPO PETITION BY THE APPLICANT. SEE 37 CFR 1.313 AND MPEP 1308.

THE ISSUE FEE AND PUBLICATION FEE (IF REQUIRED) MUST BE PAID WITHIN THREE MONTHS FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS NOTICE OR THIS APPLICATION SHALL BE REGARDED AS ABANDONED. THE STATUTORY PERIOD CANNOT BE EXTENDED. SEE 35 U.S.C. 151. THE ISSUE FEE DUE INDICATED ABOVE REFLECTS A CREDIT FOR ANY PREVIOUSLY PAID ISSUE FEE APPLIED IN THIS APPLICATION. THE PTOL-85B (OR AN EQUIVALENT) MUST BE RETURNED WITHIN THIS PERIOD EVEN IF NO FEE IS DUE OR THE APPLICATION WILL BE REGARDED AS ABANDONED.

HOW TO REPLY TO THIS NOTICE:

I. Review the SMALL ENTITY status shown above.

If the SMALL ENTITY is shown as YES, verify your current SMALL ENTITY status:

A. If the status is the same, pay the TOTAL FEE(S) DUE shown above.

B. If the status is changed, pay the PUBLICATION FEE (if required) and twice the amount of the ISSUE FEE shown above and notify the United States Patent and Trademark Office of the change in status, or

If the SMALL ENTITY is shown as NO:

A. Pay TOTAL FEE(S) DUE shown above, or

B. If applicant claimed SMALL ENTITY status before, or is now claiming SMALL ENTITY status, check the box below and enclose the PUBLICATION FEE and 1/2 the ISSUE FEE shown above.

☐ Applicant claims SMALL ENTITY status.
See 37 CFR 1.27.

II. PART B - FEE(S) TRANSMITTAL should be completed and returned to the United States Patent and Trademark Office (USPTO) with your ISSUE FEE and PUBLICATION FEE (if required). Even if the fee(s) have already been paid, Part B - Fee(s) Transmittal should be completed and returned. If you are charging the fee(s) to your deposit account, section "4b" of Part B - Fee(s) Transmittal should be completed and an extra copy of the form should be submitted.

III. All communications regarding this application must give the application number. Please direct all communications prior to issuance to Mail Stop ISSUE FEE unless advised to the contrary.

IMPORTANT REMINDER: Utility patents issued on applications filed on or after Dec. 12, 1980 may require payment of maintenance fees. It is patentee's responsibility to ensure timely payment of maintenance fees when due.

DOCKETED

FROM ARMSTRONG, KRATZ, QUINTOS, HANSON & BROOKS (WED) 12.22.04 14:36/ST. 14:35/NO. 4864272347 P. 2



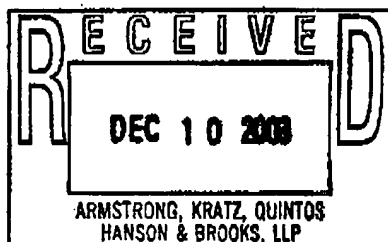
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08/792,468	01/31/1997	CHIZU SHIMIZU	94049B	4039

23850 7590 12/09/2003

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EXAMINER

HESS, DANIEL A

ART UNIT PAPER NUMBER

2876

DATE MAILED: 12/09/2003

Determination of Patent Term Extension under 35 U.S.C. 154 (b)
(application filed after June 7, 1995 but prior to May 29, 2000)

The Patent Term Extension is 0 day(s). Any patent to issue from the above-identified application will include indication of the 0 day extension on the front page.

If a Continued Prosecution Application (CPA) was filed in the above-identified application, the filing date that determines Patent Term Extension is the filing date of the most recent CPA.

Applicant will be able to obtain more detailed information by accessing the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system (<http://pair.uspto.gov>).

Any questions regarding the Patent Term Extension or Adjustment determination should be directed to the Office Patent Legal Administration at (703) 305-1383. Questions relating to issue and publication fee payments should be directed to the Customer Service Center of the Office of Patent Publication at (703) 305-8283.

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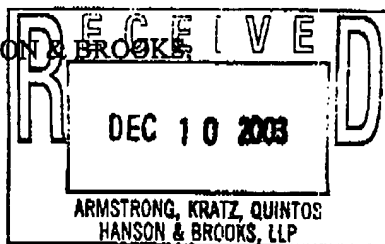
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08/792,468	01/31/1997	CHIZU SHIMIZU	94049B	4039

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EXAMINER

HESS, DANIEL A

ART UNIT PAPER NUMBER

2876

DATE MAILED: 12/09/2003

Notice of Fee Increase on October 1, 2003

If a reply to a "Notice of Allowance and Fee(s) Due" is filed in the Office on or after October 1, 2003, then the amount due will be higher than that set forth in the "Notice of Allowance and Fee(s) Due" since there will be an increase in fees effective on October 1, 2003. See Revision of Patent Fees for Fiscal Year 2004; Final Rule, 68 Fed. Reg. 41532, 41533, 41534 (July 14, 2003).

The current fee schedule is accessible from (<http://www.uspto.gov/main/howtofees.htm>).

If the fee paid is the amount shown on the "Notice of Allowance and Fee(s) Due" but not the correct amount in view of the fee increase, a "Notice of Pay Balance of Issue Fee" will be mailed to applicant. In order to avoid processing delays associated with mailing of a "Notice of Pay Balance of Issue Fee," if the response to the Notice of Allowance is to be filed on or after October 1, 2003 (or mailed with a certificate of mailing on or after October 1, 2003), the issue fee paid should be the fee that is required at the time the fee is paid. If the issue fee was previously paid, and the response to the "Notice of Allowance and Fee(s) Due" includes a request to apply a previously-paid issue fee to the issue fee now due, then the difference between the issue fee amount at the time the response is filed and the previously-paid issue fee should be paid. See Manual of Patent Examining Procedure, Section 1308.01 (Eighth Edition, August 2001).

Effective October 1, 2003, 37 CFR 1.18 is amended by revising paragraphs (a) through (c) to read as set forth below

Section 1.18 Patent post allowance (including issue) fees.

- (a) Issue fee for issuing each original or reissue patent, except a design or plant patent:
 - By a small entity (Sec. 1.27(a))..... \$665.00
 - By other than a small entity..... \$1,330.00
- (b) Issue fee for issuing a design patent:
 - By a small entity (Sec. 1.27(a))..... \$240.00
 - By other than a small entity..... \$480.00
- (c) Issue fee for issuing a plant patent:
 - By a small entity (Sec. 1.27(a))..... \$320.00
 - By other than a small entity..... \$640.00

Questions relating to issue and publication fee payments should be directed to the Customer Service Center of the Office of Patent Publication at (703) 305-8283.

Notice of Allowability	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	08/792,468	SHIMIZU ET AL	
	Examiner	Art Unit	
	Daniel A Hess	2876	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--
 All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to response of 8/26/2003.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 37-45, 48, 50 and 52.
3. ☐ The drawings filed on _____ are accepted by the Examiner.
4. ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
 1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * Certified copies not received: _____
5. ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application).
 - (a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
6. ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application. **THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE**

7. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
8. ☒ CORRECTED DRAWINGS must be submitted.
 - (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
 - 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No. _____.
 - (b) ☐ including changes required by the proposed drawing correction filed _____, which has been approved by the Examiner.
 - (c) ☒ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No. 10/28.

Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet.

9. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1 <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 2 <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| 3 <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 4 <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413), Paper No. _____ |
| 5 <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449), Paper No. _____ | 6 <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Amendment/Comment |
| 7 <input type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit of Biological Material | 8 <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance |
| | 9 <input type="checkbox"/> Other |

BOOKETED

Part of Paper No. 1028260

Application/Control Number: 08/792,468
Art Unit: 2876

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DETAILED ACTION / NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY

Remarks

1. Acknowledgement is made of applicant's request for continued examination (RCE) received by the office on 8/26/2003 and placed in the file of record, to which this action is a response.

Drawings

2. The drawings are objected to because unfortunately, during electronic processing, the drawings apparently did not scan properly. A proposed drawing correction or corrected drawings are required in reply to the Office action to avoid abandonment of the application. The objection to the drawings will not be held in abeyance.

EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

3. An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

The application is amended as follows:

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Art Unit: 2876

IN THE SPECIFICATION:

On page 1, at line 6 please insert:

This application is a continuation of U.S. Patent Application serial number 08/526,091, now abandoned, which is a division of U.S. Patent Application serial number 08/274,041, now U.S. Patent No. 5,898,158.

IN THE CLAIMS:

Claims 38, 42, 48 and 52 should appear as follows:

38. (New) An independently mobile shopping cart as defined in claim 37, wherein said payment processor further comprises a indicating section for indicating, if necessary, that the current remainder read by said prepaid card reader is insufficient for the price of the individual commodity identified by said commodity price identifying section.

42. (New) An independently mobile shopping cart as defined in claim 39, wherein said payment processor further comprises a receipt issuing section for issuing a receipt upon completion of the payment.

Application/Control Number: 08/792,468
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Page 4

48. (New) An independently mobile shopping cart as defined in claim 37, wherein said payment processor further comprises:

an instruction receiver for receiving a power on/off instruction from an external management apparatus; and

a power on/off section for automatically turning on/off the power of said payment processor in response to the power on/off instruction received by said data reception section.

52. (New) An independently mobile shopping cart as defined in claim 48, wherein said payment processor further comprises:

a measuring section for measuring the total weight of the commodities carried by said cart body;

a observing section for observing whether a change in the total weight measured by said measuring section accompanies the reading operation of the commodity code by said commodity code reader; and

(Note to applicant: These claims are as they appeared in the 6/9/2002 amendment. In the most recent version of the claims, during electronic document processing, the claims did not appear properly).

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Art Unit: 2876

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REASONS FOR ALLOWANCE

4. Claim 37-45, 48, 50 and 52 are allowed.

The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance: In several instances in the prior art, mobile shopping carts are known. Swartz (US 5,412,193) has a cart that is fully mobile based on an RF system (column 7, lines 65-67) that can be employed in credit card verification and a rechargeable battery pack (column 4, lines 66-68). Although Swartz' system is not a cart, Collins, Jr. (US 5,149,947) teaches a cart having checkout system elements. In combination, they teach a mobile cart that can perform checkout, as has been discussed in the office action of 2/27/2003.

What Swartz fails to teach, and what the prior art fails to show or fairly suggest, is a system that can operate *without any external communications* during the checkout process. In the Swartz teaching, communication with an external source occurs in order to verify credit card transactions. Likewise, a debit card would at least require some external communication. In a prepaid card, however, the transaction can occur independent of external communications.

5. Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Application/Control Number: 08/792,468
Art Unit: 2876

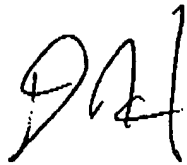
Page 6

Conclusion

6. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Daniel A Hess whose telephone number is ~~(703) 305-3841~~. The examiner can normally be reached on 8:00 AM - 5:00 PM M-F. **571 272 2392**

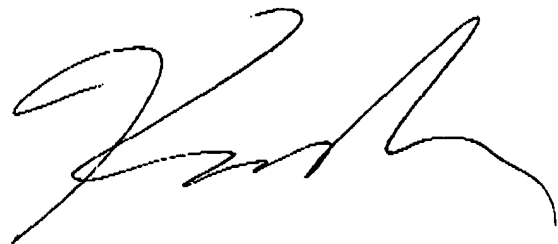
7. If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Michael G Lee can be reached on (703) 305-3503. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is (703) 872-9306.

8. Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is (703) 308-0956.



DH

Daniel A Hess
Examiner
Art Unit 2876



KARL D. FRECH
PRIMARY EXAMINER